

# **DECLARATION OF MICHAEL LEWANDOWSKI**

1. My name is Michael Lewandowski. I am the Pastor of the Lamb of God Ministries, located at 971 S. Dixie Highway, Pompano Beach, Florida, 33060. I reside at 102 Liberty Court, Pompano Beach, Florida, 33073.

2. I have lived in the Miami area for over nine years, and I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. In addition to my work with Lamb of God, I am also the Chaplain of the Fort Lauderdale Viet Nam Vets, and an officer of the National Conference of Viet Nam Veterans Ministries. I am also a member of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

4. Lamb of God operates a regeneration program for men recovering from alcohol or drug addiction. We have two homes, housing between 35 to 40 residents a month. Our program is a residential program, and we receive residents coming out of hospitals, jails, and off the streets. During Stage 1, the first six months of the program, which is highly structured, we take our residents in, feed them, clothe them, and generally clean them up. We make them aware of their addiction problem and try to convince them to take responsibility for their addiction. We also get the person a job. After the initial six month phase of the program our residents move to what we call a "three-quarter" house, where our

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residents stay as long as they like.

5. Some of our residents come to us for help of their own accord, others are referred to us by family members or other organizations, such as churches, and other alcohol and drug addiction programs. We also get many referrals, and people who seek our help, as a result of the channel 45 prayer line. Often a person who has an addiction problem, or a member of their family, calls the channel 45 prayer line for help, and these people are referred to us for help. I would estimate that approximately ten percent of the people we serve come to us as the result of a referral from the channel 45 prayer line.

6. During the license term I have also appeared as a guest on the "Feedback" program and the "Praise the Lord--South Florida" program. On the "Feedback" program I was a member of a panel discussing drug and alcohol addiction. On the panel someone worked with teenagers, another worked with families with addiction problems. The range of addiction problems was thoroughly discussed during the program, and there was an emphasis on where the viewers could go for help once they realized that they had a problem. The program was broadcast nationwide, and following the program I received a large number of calls from families and spouses concerning family members with alcohol and drug addiction problems, and not a few from those with a problem who wanted to know where to go for help. Many people called to offer encouragement, and to ask how they could start a program like ours in their community,

7. On the "Praise the Lord--South Florida" program I was

interviewed for over one half an hour concerning the problems experienced by Viet Nam war veterans. A comparatively high percentage of Viet Nam vets suffer from Post Trauma Stress Syndrome, and a high percentage of homeless are Viet Nam vets. Other people who were involved in organizations or ministries helping the Viet Nam vets were also interviewed on the program, and the name and telephone numbers of these organizations, and my own, was displayed on the screen during the program. During and after that show I received from 30 to 45 telephone calls from Viet Nam vets who wanted help, or from wives or parents of Viet Nam veterans who wanted to know where they could go for help.

8. I appreciated the opportunity to discuss both my ministry to the alcohol and drug addicted on television, and the opportunity channel 45 gave me to educate people about the problems and needs of Viet Nam vets. I have been prominent in the ministry for many years, and my involvement with Viet Nam veterans is well know. My work was the subject of at least three feature articles in the local newspaper. I have not been asked and have not appeared, however, on any other television station. Moreover, although I am heavily involved in Viet Nam veterans affairs, I have never seen a program broadcast on a station in the Miami area whose subject was the problems of Viet Nam vets and the resources in the community to help troubled Viet Nam vets.

9. I am a regular viewer of channel 45, and was a regular viewer during the license term. I know that watching channel 45 programming has an impact on people's lives. Over the years,

including during the license term, many of our residents with alcohol and drug addiction problems first became aware of their problem or became convicted of the need to do something about the problem while watching channel 45 programming. Several of these people called the channel 45 prayer line and were referred to our program.

10. During the license term I watched a number of programs on channel 45 which concerned street gangs, crime and violence, and the problems of the homeless. In my opinion these programs were especially excellent and much more responsive to the needs of the community than programs about these problems that were broadcast on other television stations. On programs broadcast on channel 45 the problem was shown or described. What made channel 45's programming different, and better, is that its programming, in contrast to programming on other stations, always showed a solution to the problem in that it always directed people to agencies, organizations or ministries who were helping people deal with the problem.

11. Channel 45 has a good reputation for being a good citizen and addressing the real needs of the community. I often hear people talking about a particular show on an issue broadcast on channel 45, and the station has a good reputation for addressing community problems such as crime, drugs and alcohol abuse. I also believe that channel 45 is particularly important to Miami's minority community. Members of minority groups are given a more visible role in programming, particularly as hosts or hostess' of

programs, than any other station in the South Florida area which is not a spanish language station. The topics chosen for discussion and the guests which appear on "Praise the Lord--South Florida" seem to be carefully chosen to address community needs, particularly the needs of the minority community.

**SUPPORTING DECLARATION**

I, Michael Lewandowski, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Michael Lewandowski," consisting of five (5) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 3rd day of August, 1993.

By: Michael Lewandowski  
Michael Lewandowski





### DECLARATION OF LUIS LOPEZ

1. My name is Luis Lopez. Since 1988 I have been the pastor of Ministerios Unidos Por Fe, Inc. (Ministries United by Faith, Inc.), a church with a strong ministry to jail inmates, and those transitioning from jail back into society. The church also has a food service for homeless and needy people. My business address is 16363 N.E. 57th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33014. My residence address is 6791 N.W. 186th Lane, Miami, Florida 33015. I have resided in Miami for the last 14 years. I am submitting this declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission my testimony concerning the contribution to the community welfare that television station WHFT, channel 45, Miami, Florida made on behalf of Ministerios Unidos Por Fe, Inc. during the period of 1987 through February 1992.

2. I have been a regular viewer of WHFT for over ten years. I am familiar with its programming, and I believe it provides a needed and valuable service which promotes the community welfare in the Miami area. My program involvement with WHFT between 1987 and 1992 began in 1988 through my work with Ministerios Unidos Por Fe, Inc. ("MUPF"). MUPF provides a ministry to inmates in the Dade county and federal correction facilities, particularly the federal prisons in Mariana, Florida. The inmates MUPF most often works with are hard individuals with violent personalities and violent behavior patterns. MUPF has used the programming of channel 45 in its jail ministry to help reinforce a message of hope and peace to the inmates it works with. Importantly, WHFT's programming does

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not include violence. I cannot stress how important this is as a work tool for MUPF in reaching and working with inmates. The inmate population in the greater south Florida area, in and around Miami, is over 10,000. Reaching these inmates, and helping to rehabilitate them and get them ready to re-enter society is a job of paramount promotions, and I earnestly believe that without channel 45 the work of MUPF would not be nearly as effective, nor would the inmates we work with be given the best chance for transition back into society.

3. Of particular importance is WHFT's "Praise The Lord South Florida," a locally produced program. This program regularly features guest hosts which inform viewers of positive and community service oriented organizations throughout the Miami area where people can go for help. The program also features a large number of minority guest hosts, particularly African-Americans and Hispanics. Since a large percentage of the inmates we work with are minorities, the positive images and presentations of minorities on WHFT's "Praise The Lord South Florida" is important, and helps in developing a more positive and hopeful attitude on the part of the inmates MUPF works with.

4. It is also my opinion that WHFT not only served the public welfare of the Miami area during the 1987 through February 1992 time period through its programming efforts, but also through its community outreach and nonbroadcast activities. In addition to its jail ministry, MUPF also operates a soup kitchen which provides food and short-term shelter for homeless and needy people. WHFT

operates a relief program called "His Hand Extended" ("HHE"). HHE provides direct relief assistance, food and clothing, to needy individuals and families in the local community. During the noted time period, WHFT provided supplies and donations of food to MUPF for its soup kitchen operation. Also, some of the people who were served by MUPF during the noted time period reported to me that in times of need WHFT's HHE program had provided them with food and clothing when they had no where else to turn.

5. WHFT enjoys an excellent reputation for community service and for responding to community problems and needs. WHFT also provides an important community service through its 24-hour community based telephone prayer line. The station's prayer line is a good, positive point of contact for free, short-term assistance during times of crises for viewers and members of the public. Indeed, people working with, or aided by MUPF are regularly reporting to me that they have called into the WHFT prayer line to talk through problems they were having dealing with their violent natures and their violent pasts. The people MUPF works with are constantly challenged by society, and often feel frustrated, and tempted to slip back into criminal activity and drug and alcohol use. The station's prayer line has helped them overcome and deal positively with this struggle.

6. I have also personally donated my time to help answer the telephone prayer lines, and I know that those calling in for help not only get someone who is a good listener (both in Spanish and English), but someone who can help refer them to local churches,

community and civic organizations which can help the caller with their problems. In fact, MUPF has received regular referrals from WHFT's prayer line, including during the 1988 through February 1992 time frame. The prayer line gives callers an opportunity to reach out and talk with someone who can be a good listener, and then to receive referrals to agencies, organizations, and ministries that may be of help to them. I know of no other television station providing this kind of community service in the Miami area.

7. WHFT has always been willing to take positive steps to advance the work of MUPF. I have also personally been surveyed by the station during 1989-1990 on what I believed were the most important issues and problems facing the Miami area. These inquiries by the station were not limited to the issues of working with inmates, crime and violence, but included my input regarding other problems and needs of the community ranging from unemployment to the problems facing minorities. I was impressed by WHFT's efforts to determine the local needs and problems by seeking a variety of viewpoints.

8. The people at WHFT, particularly Mike Everett, the station manager, have always been very helpful to me and MUPF over the years. We have always been able to count on WHFT, and we hope and expect that we can continue to do so.

**SPONSORING DECLARATION**

I, Luis Lopez, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the state of Florida and the United States of America that the foregoing "Declaration of Luis Lopez," consisting of four pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 4 day of August, 1993.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Luis Lopez



**DECLARATION OF GARY G. MORTON**

1. My name is Gary G. Morton. I am a Sergeant with the Broward County Sheriff's Office, P.O. Box 9507, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33310. I reside at 8407 S. Coral Circle, North Lauderdale, Florida, 33068.

2. I have been a resident of the Miami area for over 50 years, and I am submitting this Declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission with my testimony concerning the contributions to the community's welfare made by WHFT-TV, Miami, during its last license term (February 1, 1987 to February 1, 1992).

3. I am presently the Commander of the Crimestoppers unit, an international, community-based organization that uses the media to reenact unsolved crimes and to publicize telephone numbers where people can call to provide information about a crime. Crimestoppers serves as an intelligence clearing house for information about crime, and provides information to local police departments to assist in the arrest and conviction of criminals. People who call Crimestoppers with information are eligible to collect rewards.

4. Media publicity is vital to the success of Crimestoppers. The other stations in the Miami area would broadcast our one minute reenactments of a crime and put our phone number on the screen. Channel 45 not only broadcasts the reenactment segments of our programming, but invited me to appear as a guest on the "Feedback" program in April, 1991, which was broadcast nationally, and a



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Reporter A. W. [Signature]

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"Public Report" in July, 1991. These programs were the only opportunities I have been given by a Miami area television station to describe what Crimestoppers does and how local residents, through Crimestoppers, can be involved in the battle against crime. Each time I appeared on WHFT the program was a half hour long, and I was given an opportunity to tell people about Crimestoppers, about what they could do to help stop crime, and showed some reenactments of crimes that we had produced. Since, on both occasions, the "Feedback" program was being broadcast nationally, I encouraged people to call our local Crimestoppers number or that of our international clearing house in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Our name and phone number was flashed on the screen during the program. Following both appearances we received a response, both in calls containing information about crimes and also in terms of calls expressing support for our program and asking how they could start such a program in their own communities.

5. Since crime is such a serious problem in Broward and Dade counties, I was very appreciative of channel 45's interest in and support of the Crimestopper's program. I am also an occasional viewer of WHFT, and observed another "Feedback" program during the license term that I thought was particularly excellent and responsive to the needs of the community. The "Feedback" program subject was the growth of youth gangs in the area, and included a panel of representatives from various city and state agencies, from local schools, and from law enforcement agencies. The program was extremely informative and told parents not only about what gangs

did and how they inducted new members, but also described the telltale signs to look for if there children were members of a gang. Finally, the program provided information about who to talk to at local schools, at the local school board, or at local law enforcement agencies if the parent suspected that their child was a member of a gang.

6. Channel 45 is the only TV station which is now located in Broward county, and has a reputation for meeting the needs of the community and constantly being in the community. Channel 45 also has a reputation as a station that broadcasts only decent programming with no sex or violence, and providing continuous programming that a family could watch together.

**SUPPORTING DECLARATION**

I, Gary G. Morton, hereby declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of Florida and the United States of America that the forgoing "Declaration of Gary G. Morton," consisting of three (3) pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Executed this 3 day of August, 1993.

By: 

Gary G. Morton



**DECLARATION OF MIGUEL A. RAMIREZ**

1. My name is Miguel A. Ramirez. I am the director of Glory of God Rehabilitation Center (the "Center"), a nonprofit community based organization founded in 1985 to provide alcoholics and drug addicts with rehabilitation services. I am also the executive director of the Air & Sea Rescue Training Command ("ASRCT"), a civilian group working with the U.S. Navy to coordinate volunteer work during local disasters, such as hurricanes and riots. My residence address is 13991 S.W. 159th Terrace, Miami, Florida 33177. My business address is 20420 S.W. 120th Street, Miami, Florida 33196 (P. O. Box 960579, Miami, Florida 33296). I have been a resident of Miami for over eight years. I am submitting this declaration to provide the Federal Communications Commission my testimony concerning the contribution to the community welfare that television station WHFT, channel 45, Miami, Florida made on behalf of the Center and ASRTC during the period of February 1987 through February 1992.

2. My involvement with WHFT began in late 1986 through my work with the Center. The Center provides rehabilitation services and training to alcoholics and drug addicts throughout the Miami area. The Center provides a one-year long "drying out" or "getting straight" program, and provides group session, in-patient counseling to its students. The Center is also designed to provide religious instruction to students. This training is interdenominational, and the Center receives students referrals

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from Dade County Court Probation Officers, and a variety of churches throughout the Miami area. For example, the following churches in the Miami area provide referrals: The Upper Room, LaGloria a Dios, Tabernacle de Kendal, La Cathedral del Pueblo, the Church of the Redeemer, and various Catholic churches. The Center services between 35 and 40 students a year. During the February 1987 through February 1992 time period, I appeared several times as a guest on WHFT's talk show "Praise the Lord South Florida" and was a guest on the station's public affairs show "Public Reports." During each of my appearances I spoke about the alcohol and drug problems plaguing the Miami area, and informed viewers about the Center. During all of my program appearances the work of the Center was promoted, and the services provided and the problems the students of the Center face were discussed. Viewers were also invited to help support the work of the Center. As a result of the promotion and exposure the Center received through my appearance on the station, it has been able to grow and better perform and fulfill its purpose of providing rehabilitation for alcoholics and drug abusers and addicts. It is my opinion that without the help of WHFT the Center would not have been able to grow and provide the community service it does today.

3. In addition, during the February 1987 through February 1992 time frame I have also been given an opportunity to promote the activities and services of the ASRTC during my appearances on the station's "Praise the Lord South Florida" and "Public Report"



programs. I appeared on those programs a number of times during the noted time period, and each time solicited for volunteer workers to help during times of local disaster. For example, in 1988 there were riots in South Miami and the ASRTC was called in to help police and fire services during the riot. The ASRTC provided important support services, such as crowd control and clearing areas for emergency vehicles. The station helped promote the services and activities of ASRTC, and that exposure has been very helpful.

4. Between 1987 and February 1992 I was also contacted by WHFT to solicit my input regarding community issues and to obtain referrals on other community leaders and organizations I could refer to the station to address the needs and issues I believe Miami has, and to promote locally based community service and church organizations addressing and dealing with the issues I identified. The station did not limit these inquiries to the issues of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction, the areas I am most familiar with, but also sought my input regarding other problems and needs of the community, ranging from employment and training to the needs of children. I was impressed by WHFT's efforts to determine the local needs and problems by seeking my view on a variety of issues, and for seeking a variety of viewpoints.

5. I wish to also express my opinion that WHFT not only served the public welfare during the 1987 through February 1992 through its programming efforts, but also through its community